

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130483

FOL TEHRAN 4710 SENT ACTION SECSTATE ABIDJAN AMMAN ANKARA
BELGRADE BOGOTA BRUSSELS CAIRO CANBERRA COPENHAGEN DAKAR
ISLAMABAD KIGALI LAGOS LIMA LONDON MASERU MONEVIDEO NEW DELHI
NICOSIA OTTAWA PANAMA PARIS STOCKHOLM VIENNA HAVANA MAY 16,
1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4710

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: IRANIAN ASSESSMENT OF THE 34TH
SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC)

REF: STATE 072085

1. ON MAY 15 POLCOUNS HAD OCCASION TO EXCHANGE VIEWSON
34TH SESSION OF UNHRC WITH MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
DEPARTMENT HEAD EHSASSI WHO ATTENDED CONFERENCE WITH
PRINCESS ASHRAF.

2. EHSASSI VOLUNTEERED HIS OWN ASSESSMENT WHICH CLOSELY
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PARELLELED FIRST POINT MADE BY DEPT IN REFTEL (SECT 2A AND
B). HE SAID HRC SESSION MOVED SMOOTHLY AND MORE AND MORE
COUNTRIES ARE INTERESTED IN BEING MEMBERS. THERE WAS
VERY GREAT COMPETITION, PARTICULARLY AMONG WESTERN EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES.

3. HE NOTED UK FAILED TO BE ELECTED FOR THE FIRST TIME,

WITH CANADA TAKING THEIR PLACE. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS BOTH TO INERTIA BASED ON OVERCONFIDENCE BY BRITISH DELEGATION AND TO BRITISH BEHAVIOR IN THE CONFERENCE. IN LATTER REGARD, HE CONTRASTED CANADIAN COOPERATION WITH CONCERNS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AGAINST BRITISH "EXTREME ATTITUDES" ON CERTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. AS EXAMPLE HE WAS INVOLVED IN, HE NOTED CONTROVERSY AS TO WHO SHOULD BE MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE REVIEWING COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. IRAN AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THOUGHT ONLY SIGNATORIES SHOULD BE MEMBERS WHILE BRITISH WERE AMONG THOSE ADVOCATING MEMBERSHIP FOR ALL COUNTRIES INTERESTED. CANADIANS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN WORKING OUT A COMPROMISE, FOR WHICH DEVELOPING NATIONS WERE GRATEFUL.

4. EHSASSI MENTIONED IN PASSING THE INTEREST THERE IS IN EXPANDING AND RESTRUCTURING THE COMMISSION. THERE IS TALK ABOUT WESTERN EUROPEANS BEING OVERREPRESENTED, BUT EHSASSI OPINED THAT KIND OF RESTRUCTURING WOULD PROBABLY BE TOO CONTROVERSIAL AND NOT GET VERY FAR. WHEN WE MADE FURTHER POINT, REGARDING NAM THRUST ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES (PARA 2D), EHSASSI SUGGESTED "NON-ALIGNED" IS WRONG NOMENCLATURE. SINCE THESE ARE NOT POLITICAL BUT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" MORE APPROPRIATE. AS FAR AS GROUP OF 77 GOES, THERE IS GENERALLY SHARED INTERPRETATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFINING THEM IN TERMS BEYOND THE "SIMPLY POLITICAL". IRAN PLAYED A LEADING PART IN CONFIDENTIAL

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GETTING PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION DEFINING HUMAN RIGHTS AS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL, AS WELL AS POLITICAL AND WAS GRATIFIED US DELEGATION SUPPORTED THIS STATEMENT. IN REPLYING TO OUR QUESTION, HE NOTED SOME WESTERN EUROPEANS, SUCH AS FRG, HAD A DIFFERENT VIEW, LIMITED THEIR DEFINITION TO POLITICAL FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.

5. POLCOUNS COMMENTED THAT IT IS HARD TO ARGUE AGAINST INCLUDING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS WITH THE POLITICAL, BUT ASKED WHAT HAPPENS IF A QUESTION OF PRIORITY ARISES. HE ASKED IF MEMBERS OF G-77 HAD ANY PROBLEMS IN THAT REGARD, EHSASSI REPLIED THAT G77 WOULD NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN U.S. CONFLICT WITH THE SOCIALIST BLOCK COUNTRIES REGARDING POLITICAL RIGHTS. HE SAID MAJORITY OF AFRICANS AND ASIANS AGREE IN THEIR VIEWS. LATIN AMERICANS ARE DIFFERENT, IN THAT POLITICAL RIGHTS DIVIDE THEM, AND SOME DO NOT CONSIDER THEMSELVES AS DEVELOPING NATIONS. HE REPEATED THAT INTEREST IN MEMBERSHIP ON HRC IS GROWING RAPIDLY AMONG ALL THESE COUNTRIES. PERHAPS THEY THINK BY PARTICIPATING ON THE COMMISSION THEY WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO EXPLAIN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.

6. EHSASSI COMPLETED THE REVIEW BY AGAIN EXPRESSING
SATISFACTION THAT IT WAS PRINCESS ASHRAF'S THREE STATEMENTS
DEFINING HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH FORMED THE BODY OF THE
RESOLUTION PASSED BY HRC, A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT.
SULLIVAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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